

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, BR

SUBJECT: FRG SALE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL

REF: BONN 19502

1. REFTEL NOTWITHSTANDING, WESTINGHOUSE HAS INFORMATION THAT BRAZILIANS SIGNED PROTOCOL FOR TRANSFER OF FRG NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN NOVEMBER WHICH WAS THEN COUNTER-SIGNED BY FRG ON DECEMBER 13, PRIOR TO UEKI VISIT TO FRG. PROTOCOL ALLEGEDLY COVERS:

A. NOZZLE ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF ONE MILLION SWU PER YEAR DEMONSTRATION PLANT;

B. TECHNOLOGY FOR OTHER POSTIONS OF LWR FUEL CYCLE, INCLUDING CHEMICAL PROCESSING;

C. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BRAZILIAN INDUSTRY IN
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NUCLEAR COMPONENT MANUFACTURE, INCLUDING GERMAN PARTICIPA-

TION IN ONE OR MORE JOINT VENTURE; AND

D. FRG IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM.

WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER DISCREET INQUIRIES AS TO FACTUAL ACCURACY THIS INFORMATION.

BEGIN FYI:

2. RE HERMES CONTENTION IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTTEL THAT

AMERICANS "HITTING BELOW BELT" AND PLAYING INTO HANDS OF OPPONENTS OF NPT WHO ARGUE THAT IT WORKS TO GERMAN COMMERCIAL DISADVANTAGE, WE SEE THIS AS INVERTED VIEW OF ACTUAL SITUATION. IF INFORMATION WE ARE RECEIVING FROM WESTINGHOUSE IS CORRECT, THEN IT APPEARS THAT FRG IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FUEL CYCLE TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL IN ORDER TO GAIN COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE WHICH U.S. WOULD BE UNWILLING OR RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL PROLIFERATION CONCERNS. IT DOES NOT SEEM UNREASONABLE TO SPECULATE WHETHER FRG, WHICH HAS OPERATED ONLY PILOT-SCALE ENRICHMENT FACILITY, OR U.S., WITH OVER TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE AS LARGE-SCALE ENRICHER, WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE MOST DEPENDABLE COMMERCIAL SOURCE OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES. FURTHER, WESTINGHOUSE MAY HAVE QUESTIONED KWU'S ABILITY TO HANDLE ADEQUATELY BRAZILIAN PROGRAM, GIVEN ITS HEAVY COMMITMENTS WITHIN FRG, IN IRAN AND, POSSIBLY, USSR. THESE ARE, WE BELIEVE, LEGITIMATE COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS WHICH ARE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES. END FYI KISSINGER

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